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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/069,480

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EXAMINER

ISMAIL, SHAWKI SAIF

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2155

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/11/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/069,480

Applicant(s)

MIYA ET AL.

Examiner

SHAWKI S. ISMAIL

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 38-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 38-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment received on April 4, 2008.
Claims 38-50 have been amended.
Claims 1-37 have been cancelled.
Claims 38-50 are pending further examination.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114 1.

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 17, 2008 has been entered.

The New Grounds of Rejection

3. Applicant's amendment and arguments received on August 20, 2007 have been fully considered, however they are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 38-39, 42, 43-47, and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Mohebbi** (hereinafter referred to as Mohebbi) U.S. Patent **6,889,046** in view of **Nakajima et al.**, (hereinafter referred to as Nakajima) U.S. Patent No. **5,940,769**.

Mohebbi teaches a mobile station that is capable of receiving a downlink signal from each of a plurality of base stations and transmitting an uplink signal to the plurality of the base stations through a wireless channel. The mobile station produces a measure of signal quality of the downlink signals from the plurality of base stations to the mobile station and selects a base station from which the downlink signal shows a preferred signal quality. The mobile station transmits an uplink signal indicating the selected base station among the plurality of base stations for subsequent communications with the mobile station. Each base station processes the uplink signal to identify the selected base station from among the plurality of base stations (see abstract).

6. As to claim 38, Mohebbi teaches a fast packet transmission system comprising a communication terminal and a plurality of base stations, wherein: the communication terminal comprises:

a selector that selects a base station to communicate a packet in a next transmission unit according to channel states between the communication terminal and base stations (refer to col. 4, lines 34-52, the mobile station selects a base station according to channel states between the base station and the mobile station); and

a terminal transmitter that communicates acknowledgment or negative acknowledgment information indicating whether an error is detected in the received packet, packet number information indicating the packet number of the received packet, and base station selection information indicating the selected base station, to the base stations; and

each base station comprises:

a determiner that determines whether to communicate the packet in the next transmission unit based on the base station selection information (refer to col. 4, lines 34-52, a base station determines whether it is the selected base station);

a controller that determines a transmission target packet based on the acknowledgment or negative acknowledgment information and packet number information when the base station communicates the packet in the next transmission unit (refer to col. 4, lines 34-52, the base station determines the next packet to transmit to the mobile station); and

a base station transmitter that communicates the transmission target packet determined in the controller to the communication terminal (refer to col. 4, lines 34-52, the base station transmits the packets).

Although the features of error detection and ACK and NACK of a received packet is implicitly taught in the system of Mohebbi, Mohebbi fails to explicitly teach an error detector that detects an error in a received packet; a determiner that determines a packet number of the received packet; and a terminal transmitter that communicates acknowledgment or negative acknowledgment information indicating whether an error is detected in the received packet, packet number information indicating the packet number of the received packet.

Nakajima explicitly teaches the features of error detection and specifically re-send control. Nakajima teaches:

A sequence number and redundancy bits for detecting error are added to a data packet. First, N-th data packet is transmitted from the base station 101 to the mobile station 102. In the mobile station 102, presence of error is checked by using the redundancy bits for detecting and correcting error. When no error is found, as shown in FIG. 2, ACK (affirmative response) showing that the N-th data packet is received correctly is transmitted to the base station 101. The base station 101, when receiving ACK, transmits the next (N+1)-th data packet to the mobile station 102. In the second base station 102,

checking error similarly, and if error is found, as shown in FIG. 2, **NAK (negative response)** showing that error is contained in the (N+1)-th data packet is transmitted to the first base station 101. The base station 101, when receiving NAK, **re-sends the (N+1)-th data packet to the mobile station 102.** In the second base station 102, checking error similarly, and when no error is found, as shown in FIG. 2, ACK showing that the (N+1)-th data packet is received correctly is transmitted to the base station 101. After receiving ACK, the base station 101 transmits next data to the mobile station 102. (refer to col. 1, line 50 –col. 2, line 3, emphasis added)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the teaching of Nakajima's error detection into the invention of Mohebbi in order to detect error in a received packet and to enable a mobile station to detect the occurrence of an error in a received packet and to take corrective measures.

7. As to claim 39, Mohebbi teaches the fast packet transmission system according to claim 38, wherein the terminal transmitter communicates the packet number information to the base stations only when the base station that communicates the packet is switched (refer to col. 4, lines 34-52).

8. As to claim 42, Mohebbi teaches the fast packet transmission system according to claim 38, wherein the terminal transmitter communicates the packet number information with transmit power higher than transmit power of other information (col. 7, lines 15-24).

9. Claims 40-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Mohebbi** (hereinafter referred to as Mohebbi) U.S. Patent **6,889,046** in view of **Nakajima et al.**, (hereinafter referred to as Nakajima) U.S. Patent No. **5,940,769**, and further in view of **Parkvall et al.**, (hereinafter referred to as Parkvall) U.S. Patent No. **6,542,736**.

10. As to claims 40-41, Mohebbi teach the system as described above. Mohebbi does not explicitly teach wherein the communication terminal identifies, in the communication identifying

the next packet to be communicated, the type of modulation the selected base station is to use in communicating the next packet.

Parkvall teaches data communications in a radio communications system, and more specifically, to adaptation of a radio link to a mobile terminal based on current radio communication conditions. Link adaptation may be accomplished by changing the transmit power of the base station, e.g., increasing the transmit power level for data transmitted to mobile terminals with a bad channel quality. Link adaptation may also be accomplished by changing the type of modulation and amount of channel coding applied to the data to be transmitted by the base station (see abstract, col. 2, lines 37-56).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the teaching of Parkvall into the invention of Mohebbi in order to be able attain better channel quality and to maximize the data transmission rate.

11. As to claim 43-50, they do not teach or define any new limitations above claims 38-42; therefore, they are rejected for similar reasons.

12. Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in its entirety as potentially teaching of all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context.

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's amendment and arguments received on April 4, 2008 have been fully considered but they are deemed to be moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Prior Art of Record

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Please refer to form PTO-892 (Notice of Reference Cited) for a list of relevant prior art.

Contact Information

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shawki S Ismail whose telephone number is 571-272-3985. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Shawki S Ismail/
Examiner, Art Unit 2155
June 7, 2008